

# The Police and Working K-9 Foundation



K-9 Jax – Oakland Police Department  
with his bulletproof vest

September 2011

## THE POLICE AND WORKING K-9 FOUNDATION BACKGROUND

The Police and Working K-9 Foundation is a non-profit all volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about the important jobs that K-9 teams perform and to helping to ensure that communities in California will be able to provide essential support and equipment for their law enforcement K-9 teams.

The "Cover Your K-9" Fund is a project of the Police and Working K-9 Foundation and was established to keep K-9 teams 'covered' with safety equipment and emergency medical care. All proceeds donated to this fund are tax deductible and are used for the purchase of safety equipment for law enforcement K-9s and for an emergency medical care fund for retired K-9s. Funds are raised with the help of individual donors, through our annual fundraiser at Pet Food Express locations and through the educational efforts by law enforcement K-9 teams throughout Northern California. (Note: Our first year we partnered with Western States Police Canine Assoc. and then founded PAWK-9 in 2010.)

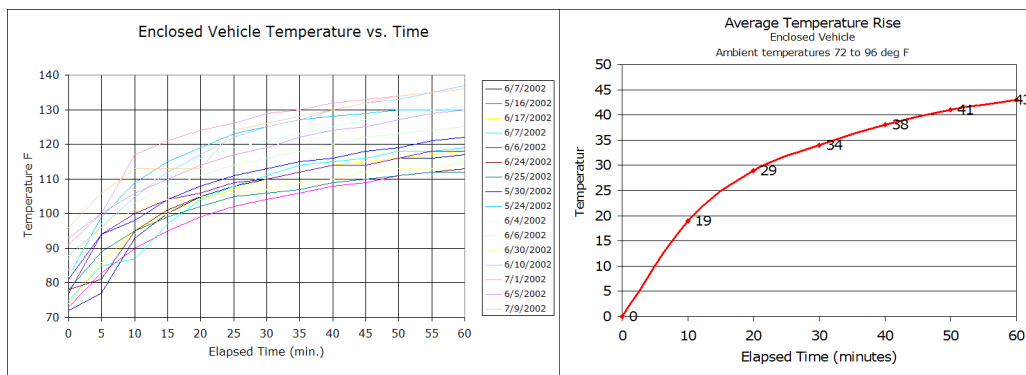
At no charge to agencies, we provide new high tech K-9 ballistic vests, an intensive Canine Emergency Medicine Course with Custom K-9 Trauma Kits and the latest technology in heat alarms for canine transportation vehicles. Over the past two years we have provided more than 100 bulletproof vests to our regional K-9 teams and have had 75 law enforcement K-9 and SAR handlers attend our Canine Emergency Medicine Course and receive specialized K-9 Trauma Kits.

Agencies that have received K-9 ballistic vests from us include Sheriff's Department K-9s with Contra Costa County, Napa County, San Mateo County and Santa Clara County, the CHP and K-9 units in the Police Departments of Concord, Livermore, Antioch, Hayward, Oakland, Napa, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Santa Clara and many others. The ballistic vests and other safety equipment are given to agencies free of charge for the safety of their K-9s and there is no expectation of any other obligations by the receiving agencies.

Over the past two years we have worked with a California equipment manufacturer and K-9 handlers in Northern California to help design a new K-9 ballistic vest that is custom fit to each dog and provides the mobility that is essential when deploying a K-9 in a tactical situation. Each vest comes with Level II Goldflex ballistic panels as well as separate Level I slash/stab panels and comes with 2 D rings and optional rappel straps. The vests are made by K-9 Tactical Gear in Penryn (north of Roseville) and we pay \$1200 for each vest (the retail is \$1800 but as a non-profit ordering a large number of them, we receive a discount). If an agency desires a different brand of vest, we will contribute \$800 toward the cost of any ballistic vest that the agency should deem appropriate.

Going forward we hope to provide two K-9 Emergency Medicine/Trauma Care Courses per year. We held our first course in May 2011 at the Alameda County OES Auditorium in Dublin. We featured 4 Veterinary Doctors from Sage Centers for Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care, 8 Registered Veterinary Technicians and 10 SAR K-9 handlers with demo dogs for a day long course that featured lectures on maintenance of a working K-9, response to emergency and trauma situations, teamwork for CPR on canines as well as splinting and bandaging practice on live dogs (Alameda County Sheriff's SAR unit providing the 'demo dogs'). At the end of the course the 60 K-9 handlers were provided with custom Trauma Kits designed by our veterinary specialists. All of the veterinary doctors, the vet techs and the other staff for the course are volunteers. We are doing this course with the hope that, if a K-9 is injured, their K-9 handlers will have the knowledge and equipment necessary to provide emergency first aid to keep the dog stable until it can receive veterinary care.

In our most recent safety campaign, we will be providing K-9 heat alarm systems with a remote pager that allow the K-9 officers to be alerted to a rise in temperature in their K-9 patrol or detection vehicle. These units are essential for the safe transport of law enforcement K-9s while they are on the job. Even in moderate temperatures (70 degrees), the rise in the interior temperature of a vehicle can exceed 100 degrees after being left in the sun for a short period of time. These heat alarm systems are an important part of keeping K-9s safe while they are working and we hope to provide more of them in 2011.



Graphic from study by Jan Null, a meteorologist at San Francisco State University, that indicates the rate of heat increase in an enclosed vehicle over time and the rise within a car from a baseline of 85 degrees. <http://www.ggweather.com/heat/>

**Retired K-9 Emergency Care:** For the K-9s that have served our communities and have retired to live with their handlers, many do not have the safety net of emergency veterinary care. We will provide up to \$1,000 for an emergency veterinary care visit to assist handlers with their care of these honorable retired dogs.

With the many economic challenges facing our cities and counties, we hope to assist the agencies in our region in keeping K-9s protected while they are hard at work protecting our communities.

The next page contains information on our tax exempt status as well as our Board of Directors. Please let us know if there is any additional information that we can provide regarding our organization.

**Additional Information about the Police & Working K-9 Foundation:**

We have received tax exempt status as a 501(c)3 corporation from both the Internal Revenue Service (our EIN is 27-2717583) as well as the State of California (Corp 3293481). We are also registered with the California Department of Justice Registry of Charitable Trusts.

**Board of Directors for the Police and Working K-9 Foundation:**

Our Board Members are individuals interested in supporting law enforcement K-9 teams and do not have personal affiliations with any sponsors or commercial interests. We are all volunteers and do not receive any compensation for our work with the organization.

**Deputy Stephen M. LeCouve, President**

**Louise Velazquez Tully, Vice President and Treasurer**

**Michele Hansen, Secretary**

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